(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Dak Sewaks

414. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Dak Sewaks lying vacant in various States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the reasons for not filling these posts, so far;

(c) the details of the demands, if any, made by Dak Sewaks during the one year period and action taken thereon; and

(d) the details of the facilities being provided/proposed to be provided to Gram Sewaks in view of the increasing inflation and increased pay scales of employees of Central/State Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Sir, as on date 26964 posts of Gramin Dak Sewaks are lying vacant in various States. State-wise detail is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). In the State of Andhra Pradesh, 1402 posts of Gramin Dak Sewaks are lying vacant. District-wise detail is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(b) As per guidelines issued by the Department, the vacant posts of Gramin Dak Sewaks are to be filled subject to statistical justification and prescribed financial parameters. The power to fill the posts has been delegated to Heads of Circles.

(c) Details of main demands made by the Dak Sewaks and action taken thereon is given in the Statement-III and IV (*See* below).

(d) Facilities being provided to Gramin Dak Sewaks are given in the Statement-V (*See* below). The Government has set up one man Committee to examine the condition of the service, emoluments and other facilities available to the Gramin Dak Sewaks. The Committee has submitted its report and recommendations to the Government.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Vacant posts of GDS

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of vacant posts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1402
2.	Assam	371
3.	Bihar	1733

1	2	3
4.	Chhattisgarh	1079
5.	Delhi	198
6.	Gujarat	1650
7.	Haryana	226
8.	Himachal Pradesh	383
9.	Jharkhand	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	207
11.	Karnataka	1045
12.	Kerala	329
13.	Madhya Pradesh	812
14.	Maharashtra	2256
15.	Goa	51
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	48
17.	Manipur	62
18.	Meghalaya	28
19.	Mizoram	75
20.	Nagaland	29
21.	Tripura	102
22.	Orissa	1768
23.	Punjab	736
24.	Rajasthan	2120
25.	Tamilnadu	1684
26.	Uttrakhand	402
27.	Uttar Pradesh	5116
28.	West Bengal	3026
29.	Sikkim	22
	GRAND TOTAL	26964

Statement-II

Details of Gramin Dak Sevaks Vacancies Existing in Andhra Pradesh State (District Wise)

Sl.No.	Name of the District	No. of GDS Vacancies
1.	Adilabad	31
2.	Ananatapur	118
3.	Chittoor	106
4.	Cuddapah	85
5.	East Godavari	57
6.	Guntur	61
7.	Hyderabad	86
8.	Karim Nagar	69
9.	Khammam	21
10.	Krishana	102
11.	Kurnool	85
12.	Mahbub Nagar	84
13.	Medak	47
14.	Nalgonda	37
15.	Nellore	25
16.	Nizamabad	59
17.	Prakasham	71
18.	Rangareddy	32
19.	Srikakulam	23
20.	Vishakhapatnam	50
21.	Vizianagaram	64
22.	Warangal	51
23.	West Godavari	38
	TOTAL	1402

Statement-III

Demands made by Gramin Dak Sewaks

1. In view of judicial pronouncements, the Gramin Dak Sevak employees be declared as Central Civil Servants for all purposes.
2. Consequently, all rules and regulations applicable to Central Civil Servants be made applicable to Gramin Dak Sevak employees (Scrapping the discriminatory separate rules).
3. No curtailment of rural Postal facility. The work hours of Branch Post Masters should be between 4 to 6 hours (*i.e.* the Post Office should kept be open for 4 hours at least and upto 6 hours.
4. Extra Departmental Sub office should be kept open for 5 to 7 hours.
5. Duty of all other outdoor Staff should be from 5 to 7 hours.
6. In keeping with recommendations of 6th Central Pay Commission, Pay bands with grade Pay corresponding to departmental counterparts be prescribed.
7. Annual increment of 3% as suggested by 6th Central Pay Commission.
8. All Allowances/ benefits at par with full time employees.
9. All retirement benefits as are due to Central Civil Servants.
10. No reduction in the Productivity Linked Bonus.

Statement-IV

Action Taken on Demands

1. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Supdt. of Post Offices *vs*. P.K. Rajamma Wherein the Apex Court has held that 'Extra Departmental Agents are holders of civil post but they are outside the regular civil Service.' They are governed by separate set of Gramin Dak Sevak (Conduct and Employment), Rule—2001, Which are non statutory rules. They cannot claim parity with the regular Departmental employees.
2. Other demands have been examined by a Committee set up to examine the service conditions and wage structure of Gramin Dak Sevaks, who has submitted its report and recommendations to the Government.
3. Limit of Productivity Linked Bonus has been enhanced for regular Government employees only, therefore, they are not entitled for enhanced ceiling as they are part time workers who perform duty from 3 to 5 hours.

Statement-V

Details of Facilities provided to Gramin Dak Sevaks as on date:

(i) Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA): on the pattern of Pay scales for regular Government employees, following 7 TRCAs (Plus Dearness Allowance on Pro-rata basis) have been prescribed for the Gramin Dak Sewaks:

TIME RELATED CONTINUITY ALLOWANCE (TRCA)

For GRAMIN DAK SEWAKS Sub-Postmasters

Rs. 2125-20-3125

For GRAMIN DAK SEWAKS BPMs

Rs. 1280-35-1980 For those with work-load up to 3 hours

Rs. 1600-40-2400 For those with work-load more than 3 hours

For GRAMIN DAK SEWAKS Mail Deliverers/Stamp Vendors

Rs. 1375-25-2125 For those with work-load up to 3 hours 45 minutes

Rs. 1740-30-2640 For those with work-load more than 3 hours 45 minutes

For other Categories of GRAMIN DAK SEWAKSs *viz.* **GRAMIN DAK SEWAKS Mail Carriers/Mailmen/Mail Packers/Mail messengers**

Rs. 1220-20-1600 For those with work-load up to 3 hours 45 minutes

Rs. 1545-25-2020 For those with work-load more than 3 hours 45 minutes

(ii) Dearness allowance: On the same pattern as applicable to regular departmental employees, on pro rata basis.

(iii) Ex-gratia gratuity of up to Rs. 18,000/-.

(iv) Paid leave at the rate of 10 days for every half year without the provision of carry forward or encashment.

(v) In case of discharge from employment at the age of 65 years or death, the amount of severance Amount Rs. 30,000/- if the period of continuous employment is minimum 20 years. However if a Gramin Dak Sewak has completed only 15-20 years of continuous employment, the Severance Amount will be Rs. 20,000/-. On absorption to regular departmental post, the Severance Amount of Rs. 20,000/- is payable after 15 years of continuous employment.

(vi) Office maintenance allowance of Rs. 50/- per month to Gramin Dak Sevak BPMs/SPMs

(vii) Delivery/ Conveyance Allowance @ Rs. 75/- per month is admissible to the Gramin Dak Sewaks BPMs/SPMs who are entrusted the additional work of conveyance of mails or delivery work.

(viii) Cycle Allowance @ Rs. 30/- per month (subject to condition that distance covered is 10 Kms or more).

(ix) Fixed Stationery Charges is paid to Gramin Dak Sewaks BPMs/SPMs @ Rs. 10/- per month and @ Rs. 25/- per month to Gramin Dak Sewaks Mail Deliverers.

(x) Combined duty Allowance @ Rs. 75/- per month is paid to such Gramin Dak Sewaks Mail Deliverer who performs the work of Gramin Dak Sewaks BPM in addition to their normal duties.

(xi) The Gramin Dak Sewaks BPMs who convey cash to the account office are also paid Rs.10/- plus actual bus fare as cash remittance allowance.

(xii) The Gramin Dak Sewaks SPMs/BPMs are paid Rs. 20/- per month as retainership allowance for PCO and Paise 40 for each inward and out ward telegram transmitted on phone.

(xiii) Bonus is also paid to the Gramin Dak Sewak's on the pattern of regular central government employees on pro rata basis *i.e.*

$$= \frac{\text{Average Emoluments X No. of days}}{30.4}$$

(xiv) The GRAMIN DAK SEWAKs are covered under the Group Insurance Scheme 1992 and are eligible for Rs. 10000/- as insurance cover. In addition, the element of Savings fund is also available under the scheme.

(xv) Financial assistance from Welfare Fund: An amount of Rs. 7000/- is paid to dependent of GRAMIN DAK SEWAKs who die in employment.

(xvi) An amount of Rs. 50,000/- is paid from Welfare Fund to the GRAMIN DAK SEWAKs who are killed in attack by dacoits/robbers due to terrorist violence/riots while on Government duty.

(xvii) Funeral Expenses: An amount of Rs. 250/- is also paid from Welfare Fund on death of GRAMIN DAK SEWAKs while on duty and there are no relatives or friends available for voluntarily bearing the funeral expenses.

(xviii) Flood Advance: An amount of Rs. 200/- is admissible to the GRAMIN DAK SEWAKs as Flood advance.

(xix) Financial Assistance in illness (TB): GRAMIN DAK SEWAKs suffering from TB are paid financial assistance @ Rs. 200/- p.m. for nutritious diet and @ Rs. 100/- after their discharge from hospital/in case of OPD treatment.

(xx) Compassionate Appointment: There is provision of compassionate appointment to one of the family members of the GRAMIN DAK SEWAKs who die in harness leaving the family behind in indigent circumstances.

Telephone subscribers

415. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of landline and mobile subscribers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for deteriorating mobile services of BSNL and MTNL; and

(c) the tele-density in the country, State-wise?